

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1.-18 (canceled)

19. (new) A method for using a billing device for charging for a service in a communication network, comprising:

receiving a service request from a service brokering device;
generating a billing reference for a client with respect to the service request;
receiving a ticket issued by an application server, the ticket containing charge information relating to the service;
requesting a confirmation of charge information by a client; and
registering charges if the billing device receives the confirmation from the client.

20. (new) The method according to claim 19, further comprising sending the billing reference directly to the client.

21. (new) The method according to claim 19, further comprising sending the billing reference indirectly to the client via the service brokering device.

22. (new) The method according to claim 19, wherein the registration of the charges is carried out equally for a prepaid client and for a billed client.

23. (new) The method according to claim 19, wherein the registration of charges consists in the ticket being stored so that a bill can be generated later.

24. (new) The method according to claim 23, wherein the registration of charges occurs in the device updating the client's level of credit or charges.

25. (new) The method according to claim 24, further comprising:
informing the client if a credit level reaches or falls below a threshold; and

informing the application server if there are insufficient funds for a prepaid user.

26. (new) The method according to claim 19, further comprising informing the client of charges incurred for the registration of charges.

27. (new) The method according to claim 19, wherein the billing device receives service requests from a plurality of service brokering devices.

28. (new) A method for using an application server for charging for a service in a communication network, comprising:

receiving a request for the service from a client, the service request containing a reference to a billing device;

generating a ticket for the service, the ticket containing information relating to a client charge that is due prior to or during the use of service;

sending the ticket to the billing device;

receiving from the billing device a message indicating if the ticket has been acknowledged by the client; and

maintaining a service relationship with the client if the ticket is positively acknowledged by the client.

29. (new) The method according to claim 28, further comprising terminating the service relationship with the client if the ticket is negatively acknowledged.

30. (new) The method according to claim 28, further comprising terminating the service relationship with the client if the message indicates the client has not acknowledged the ticket.

31. (new) The method according to claim 28, further comprising terminating the service relationship with the client if the application server does not receive message from the billing device.

32. (new) The method according to claim 28, further comprising:

receiving from the billing device an indication of insufficient funds for a client that is a prepaid user; and

terminating the service relationship with the client in response to receiving the indication of insufficient funds.

33. (new) A method for a client in order to be charged for a service in a communication network, comprising:

requesting a service from a service brokering device;

receiving a reference for the service requested from the service brokering device;

establishing a service relationship between the client and an application server using the reference;

receiving a confirmation request from a billing device concerning charges due for the service; and

responding to the confirmation request;

34. (new) The method according to claim 33, further comprising displaying the charges to an end user.

35. (new) The method according to claim 34, wherein the display is in real time.

36. (new) The method according to claim 34, wherein a plurality of confirmation requests are received and the charges are cumulated, the cumulated charges are displayed to the end user.

37. (new) The method for billing for a service in a communication network, comprising:

requesting a service from the service brokering device by a client;

authenticating the client via the service brokering device;

generating a billing reference for the service request by a billing device;

responding to the client request by the brokering device with the billing reference and a billing device reference;

establishing a service relationship between the client and a server for the server by using the billing and billing device references;

producing a ticket by the server concerning charges for the service;

sending a confirmation request concerning the charges to the client by the billing device;

receiving a confirmation response from the client; and

recording the charges by the billing device if response to the confirmation response.

38. (new) The method according to claim 37, further comprising:

sending information in the confirmation request to the application server; and

maintaining the service relationship by the application server if the confirmation response positively confirms the charges.